

California State University, San Diego. Dr. Mejia has been a tireless advocate for education. She began her career in the Sweetwater Union High School District serving as a classroom teacher at Sweetwater High School and later at Mar Vista High School. Dr. Mejia's dedication to improving California's educational system led to her 1999 appointment as superintendent in the Montebello Unified School District. In 2000, Dr. Mejia received a Doctorate of Philosophy in Educational Policy and Administration from the University of Southern California and was appointed superintendent of the Sacramento City Unified School District in 2003.

During her time as superintendent of the Sacramento City Unified School District, Dr. Mejia has developed and implemented a strategic plan entitled "Success for Every Student by Name." This plan gives special attention to four essential areas for improving education: closing the achievement gap, ensuring a successful transition from middle school to high school, integrating physical, social and emotional supports with academics, and improving parent and community engagement. In addition, Dr. Mejia has led other innovative initiatives in Sacramento. This includes seeing that the Sacramento City School District became the first district in California to earn an international certification for standardizing procedures and practices at the central office. She undertook a rigorous district review with the guidance of the Annenberg Institute for School Reform, a process in which only ten districts in the Nation have engaged in. In 2007, Dr. Mejia was instrumental in the creation of a middle school task force to undertake reforms at that level. This has led to increased support for teachers and students alike.

Dr. Mejia has received many honors and professional recognition for her work in improving K-12 education. She was named the Association of California School Administrators Superintendent of the Year in 2006 and most recently she was one of the two California superintendents chosen by State Superintendent Jack O'Connell to represent California at the National Academy of Superintendents conference in Ohio. In addition Dr. Mejia has been awarded the first annual Administrator of the Year award from the California Association for Bilingual Education, named the Milken National Educator of the Year, and State Senator Martha Escutia's Woman of the Year for the 30th State Senate District.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Dr. M. Magdalena Carrillo Mejia's distinguished commitment to education here in Sacramento and throughout California. Dr. Mejia's outstanding leadership and dedication to the Sacramento City Unified School District has increased the performance of our schools and most importantly our students. We all are thankful for her efforts. As Dr. Mejia's husband Carlos, their two children, her colleagues, family and friends gather to honor her service, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing her continued good fortune in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CHARLES JOSEPH ZERZAN, JR.

### HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 2008*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker. I rise today to note the passing of a true American hero and fellow Oregonian, Dr. Charles Joseph Zerzan, Jr. Dr. Zerzan passed from this world on May 23, 2008 in the presence of his beloved wife and children. This man devoted his life to service of his family, the community and our Nation, and it is a singular sign of America's special blessing that individuals such as he have lived, enriching us all in the great enterprise of our Nation. I know this entire body will rise with me and give a solemn note of thanks to Dr. Zerzan, and our condolences to his family.

Charles Zerzan was born on December 1, 1921 in Portland, Oregon and attended primary and secondary school in the Portland and Salem areas. At the age of sixteen his parents lied about his age so that he could enlist in the Oregon National Guard; three years later America entered World War II and Dr. Zerzan found himself a 2nd Lieutenant in an Airborne division commanding men several years older than he in the harsh jungle and mountain terrain of the China-Burma-India theatre. At the end of the war, by which time he had earned the rank of Captain, he returned home to Oregon to attend Willamette University and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. He then proceeded to medical school at the University of Marquette, where he earned the degree of Medical Doctor with a specialty in internal medicine. Following medical school Dr. Zerzan re-enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in many prestigious posts. Among these were two tours in Washington at Walter Reed Army Hospital; Chief of Medicine at Rodriguez Army Hospital; and he served as U.S. Army Medical Advisor to the Jordan Arab Army. Dr. Zerzan had the privilege of serving as personal physician to President Dwight D. Eisenhower, His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal of Jordan, members of the U.S. Supreme Court and numerous United States Senators and Congressmen. During the Cuban Missile crisis Dr. Zerzan was part of the invasion force planning to go ashore in Cuba, in the event of a conflict which thankfully never came to pass.

Dr. Zerzan was highly decorated for his service to the United States. Among the military honors he received are the Legion of Merit, the Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the World War II Victory Medal, the Pacific Theater Medal with two battle stars, the National Defense ribbon and the American Defense ribbon. These honors, which are awarded among other reasons for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements," are but a small symbol of the patriotism and devotion of Dr. Zerzan to our country. As is true for so many of our veterans the true worth of his service cannot be measured.

Upon retirement from the Army in 1968 Dr. Zerzan returned to Oregon, where he served as Director of Continuing Medical Education at the Medical School of the University of Oregon-Portland (now known as Oregon Health Sciences University), and later as partner in the NW Permanente Clinic, Sunnyside Kaiser.

Despite his many professional achievements Dr. Zerzan viewed his greatest accomplishment to be his family. It was while attending college at Willamette University that Dr. Zerzan met the great love of his life, Ms. Joan Margaret Kathan of Rogue River, Oregon. As Mrs. Zerzan described it, the first time they kissed her "shoes flew off," and she knew it was true love. They married on February 7, 1948 and during their 60 years of marriage proceeded to have 12 children. These children, who live in Oregon and throughout the United States, in turn gave Dr. Zerzan 30 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The passing of Dr. Zerzan is a sad day for Oregon and all of America. But at the same time, it is a source of celebration for the accomplishment of his life's work. Dr. Zerzan was a man of courage, honor and great faith. As recorded in the Gospel of St. Matthew: "Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Dr. Zerzan's treasure was in his devotion to his family, his country and his work. He has now passed on to receive his reward, and to enjoy the treasure he stored up during his time on earth. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for joining with me and our colleagues today to celebrate Dr. Zerzan's life and reward.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 3, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I have been out on medical leave. I have been unable to cast votes; however, I would like the RECORD to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 366, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 365, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 364, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 363, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 362, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 361, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 360, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 359, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 358, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 357, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 356, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 355, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 354, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 353, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 352, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 351, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 350, I would have voted "aye."